

## EDITOR &amp; PUBLISHER

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# Owens Buys / Fourth Daily In California

BERKELEY, Calif.

The sale of the *Berkeley Gazette* to Owens Publications Inc., was announced this week by George B. Dunscomb, publisher of the 88-year-old daily.

The purchase gives the organization founded by Leo E. Owens, board chairman and former Texas and Minnesota publisher, its fourth daily in California.

The move also extends the scope of OPI operations on the East side of San Francisco Bay, Warren Brown, president of the newspaper group and publisher of two of its dailies, told E&P.

There the *Richmond Independent*, 34,962; the *Concord Transcript*, 11,385, and the *Gazette*, 13,605, plus affiliated weeklies will provide a combined distribution of 189,000, Mr. Brown said.

The *Gazette* has been owned and operated by Dunscomb family members since 1915 when Charles E. Dunscomb purchased full ownership from Friend W. Richardson, former California governor. He had acquired an interest in the paper in 1902.

George Dunscomb, publisher since July, 1939, is a nephew of the former publisher and the son of George E. Dunscomb, long publisher of the *Windsor (Ill.) Gazette*. His grandfather founded the *Sullivan (Ill.) Moultrie County News*.

Mr. Owens entered California publishing with his 1946 purchase of the *Independent*, published for 35 years in Richmond by Jack Galvin. He sold his three Texas Rio Grande Valley newspapers to the R. C. Hoiles Freedom Newspapers organization in 1951 and bought the *Whittier Daily News* (17,941) three years later. OPI acquired the *Transcript* in 1961.

Mr. Owens still holds an interest in Northwest Publications Inc., publishing the *Ridder Newspapers* in St. Paul and Duluth, Minn., and in San Jose, Calif. This holding stems from his 1929 action in joining with the Ridders in the purchase of the *St. Paul Dispatch* and *Pioneer Press*. He became publisher of these two papers and later was president of Northwest.

Mr. Brown, publisher of both the *Independent* and the *Transcript*, has been with the *Richmond* newspaper since his graduation from the University of California in Berkeley.

Participants in OPI in addition to Mr. Owens, Sr. and Mr. Brown, are the former's two sons — Owen Owens, general manager of the *Transcript*, and Lee Owens, president of Owens, Whittier Publishing Co. and a daughter, Mrs. Ellen Owens Vincent, of Piedmont, Calif.

The Berkeley sale did not include the *Gazette Press*, operating a commercial printing plant with electronic typesetting and offset press in a separate location, and the *Gazette Distributing Company*, a mail operations concern.